

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the Examiner's comments, which have greatly assisted Applicants in responding. Claims 1-25 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 21 have been amended for further clarifications. Claim 22 has been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been entered. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the Claims.

OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The disclosure was objected to because of informalities. The specification has been amended to address the objections. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections.

OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS

The Claims were objected to because of informalities. The Claims containing first appearance of abbreviations have been amended to address the objections. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections and allowance of the Claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 102

Claims 1-3, 8, 13-14, and 21-22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,665,301 to Wu (hereinafter "Wu"). Claims 1, 8, 13, and 21 have been amended. Claim 22 has been cancelled. Applicants respectfully submit that Wu fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Independent Claim 1, as amended, recites a method for Internet telephony comprising, *inter alia*, "wherein said first virtual circuit, said second virtual circuit, and said third virtual circuit are managed independently as part of separate networks." (Emphasis added).

Independent Claim 8, as amended, recites a method comprising, *inter alia*, the step of "setting up at least one trunk according to a first protocol across the core network, irrespective of communications among the plurality of edge networks and the at least one core network." (Emphasis added).

Independent Claim 13, as amended, recites a method comprising, *inter alia*, the step of "setting up on a core network a plurality of switched virtual paths each having an associated edge ATM switch, irrespective of communications between the associated edge ATM switch and the core network, each switched virtual path comprising at least one switched virtual circuit, each switched virtual circuit comprising at least one channel." (Emphasis added).

Independent Claim 21, as amended, recites a network comprising, *inter alia*, "at least one external call agent associated with each multiprotocol convergence switch for controlling the respective multiprotocol convergence switch." (Emphasis added).

The Office Action states that Wu teaches each and every one of the limitations of Claims 1-3, 8, 13-14, and 21-22, as amended. Applicants disagree for the following reasons.

Wu discloses a map of transmission slots for a port of a network element including a plurality of hierarchical sets of port transmission slots. The hierarchical sets include a plurality of parent sets, each parent set having its port transmission slots divided between a plurality of child sets. The child sets include interleaved port transmission slots. *See Abstract.* Wu fails to teach or suggest any of the above limitations, as recited in respective independent Claims 1, 8, 13, and 21. Wu is only concerned with a standard ATM network that sets up virtual circuits between each ATM switch to create an end-to-end virtual tunnel, which only exists for the lifetime of a call and then is torn down. There is no teaching or suggestion of any of the limitations cited above.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 8, 13, and 21, as amended, are distinguishable over Wu and should be allowed. Claims 2-3, and 14, dependent directly or indirectly from Claims 1, 8, and 13, respectively, are also distinguishable over Wu and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as stated above. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the Claims.

Claims 15-16, 19-20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,049,531 to Roy (hereinafter "Roy"). Claim 15 has been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that Roy fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Independent Claim 15, as amended recites a switch comprising, *inter alia*, "at least one multiprotocol convergence switch controller for enabling a first telephone to connect to at least one other telephone using a single virtual circuit and for managing communications with an external call agent." (Emphasis added).

Looking at the cited reference, Roy discloses a technique for providing real-time multimedia conferencing services with guaranteed performance, in a hybrid networking environment, by interconnecting ADSL modem-based premises networks via ADSL access networks and an ATM network. See Abstract. Roy fails to teach or suggest "at least one multiprotocol convergence switch controller for enabling a first telephone to connect to at least one other telephone using a single virtual circuit and for managing communications with an external call agent," as claimed in independent Claim 15, as amended.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claim 15, as amended, is distinguishable over Roy and should be allowed. Claims 16, and 19-20, dependent directly or indirectly from Claim 15 are also distinguishable over Roy and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as stated above. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the Claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 103

Claims 4-5, and 10-11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu in view of Yang. Applicants respectfully submit that Wu and Yang, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Claims 4-5 and 10 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claims 1 and 8, respectively. Independent Claim 11, as amended, recites a switch comprising, *inter alia*, "means for stripping headers from IP traffic using out-of-band signaling." (Emphasis added).

As discussed above, Wu fails to teach or suggest the limitations of Claims 1, 8. Wu also fails to teach or suggest "means for stripping headers from IP traffic using out-of-band signaling," as claimed in Claim 11.

Yang does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Wu. Yang discloses a method and apparatus for telecommunications, wherein voice services are provided by having a

compressor/decompressor in each mobile station configured to provide each voice packet with a compressed header. *See Abstract.* Yang, taken alone or in combination with Wu, fails to teach or suggest any of the limitations of Claim 1, 8, or 11, as amended.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claims 4-5 and 10-11, as amended, are distinguishable over Wu and Yang, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the Claims.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu in view of Roy. Applicants respectfully submit that Wu and Roy, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Claim 6 depends indirectly from independent Claim 1. As discussed above, Wu fails to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 1, as amended.

Roy does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Wu. Roy, taken alone or in combination with Wu, fails to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 1, as amended.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claim 6 is distinguishable over Wu and Roy, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the Claims.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu in view of Frey. Applicants respectfully submit that Wu and Frey, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Claim 7 depends indirectly from independent Claim 1. As discussed above, Wu fails to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 1, as amended.

Frey does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Wu. Frey, taken alone or in combination with Wu, fails to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 1, as amended.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claim 7 is distinguishable over Wu and Frey, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the Claims.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu in view of Roy and further in view of Frey. Applicants respectfully submit that Wu and Roy and Frey, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Claim 9 depends directly from independent Claim 8. As discussed above, Wu fails to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 8, as amended.

Roy and Frey do not remedy any of the deficiencies of Wu. Roy and Frey, taken alone or in any combination with Wu, fail to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 8, as amended.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claim 9 is distinguishable over Wu, Roy, and Frey, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the Claims.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu in view of Yang, and further in view of Roy and Frey. Applicants respectfully submit that Wu, Yang, Roy and Frey, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Claim 12 depends directly from independent Claim 11. As discussed above, Wu and Yang, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 11, as amended.

Roy and Frey do not remedy any of the deficiencies of Wu and Yang. Roy and Frey, taken alone or in any combination with Wu and Yang, fail to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 11, as amended. Furthermore, it would be impermissible hindsight to incorporate the teachings of Roy and Frey into Wu and Yang in order to arrive at the present invention.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claim 12 is distinguishable over Wu, Yang, Roy, and Frey, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the Claims.

Claims 17-18 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roy in view of Frey. Applicants respectfully submit that Roy and Frey, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Claims 17-18 depend indirectly from independent Claim 15. As discussed above, Roy fails to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 15, as amended.

Frey does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Roy. Frey, taken alone or in combination with Roy, fails to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 15, as amended.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claims 17-18 are distinguishable over Roy and Frey, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the Claims.

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mousseau in view of Yang. Applicants respectfully submit that Mousseau and Yang, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Independent Claim 23 recites a method of header stripping comprising, *inter alia*, "using the first multiprotocol convergence switch to strip the header from the packet; storing the header within a call setup message; sending the call setup message to a second multiprotocol convergence switch" and then "adding the header from the second routing table to the data to reconstitute the packet; and writing the packet to the second output UDP port."

As stated in the Office Action, Mousseau fails to teach or suggest the above limitations of Claim 23. Yang does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Mousseau. Yang, taken alone or in combination with Mousseau, fails to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 23.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claim 23 is distinguishable over Mousseau and Yang, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the Claims.

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mousseau in view of Yang and further in view of Mahler. Applicants respectfully submit that Mousseau and Yang and Mahler, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Claim 24 depends directly from independent Claim 23. Independent Claim 23 recites a method of header stripping comprising, *inter alia*, "using the first multiprotocol convergence switch to strip the header from the packet; storing the header within a call setup message; sending the call setup message to a second multiprotocol convergence switch" and then "adding the header from the second routing table to the data to reconstitute the packet; and writing the packet to the second output UDP port."

Mousseau and Yang, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the above limitations of Claim 23. Mahler does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Mousseau and Yang. Mahler, taken alone or in combination with Mousseau and Yang, fails to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 23.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claim 24 is distinguishable over Mousseau, Yang, and Mahler, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the Claims.

Claim 25 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang in view of Frey. Applicants respectfully submit that Yang and Frey, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Independent Claim 25 recites a method of header stripping comprising, *inter alia*, "stripping the header from the data packet; passing the header to the egress point; placing the header in a routing table" and then "reattaching the header to the data packet; and transmitting the data packet to the destination."

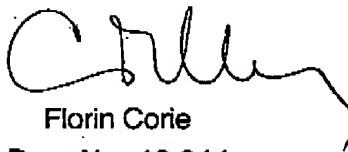
As discussed above, Yang fails to teach or suggest the above limitations of Claim 25. Frey does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Yang. Frey is only cited for the teaching of an ATM network that uses an AAL2 protocol. Frey, taken alone or in combination with Yang, fails to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 25.

Thus, Applicants submit that Claim 25 is distinguishable over Yang and Frey, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the Claims.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Applicants consider the present invention to be distinguished from the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants earnestly solicit the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejections raised in the above referenced Office Action, such that a Notice of Allowance is forwarded to Applicants, and the present application is therefore allowed to issue as a United States Patent.

Respectfully Submitted,



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